

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 SCI-06 FEA-02

PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 DODE-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 INT-08 CIEP-02 OMB-01 L-03 H-03 DRC-01

PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 /122 W

----- 044971

R 220827Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5967

INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 0341

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, SA

SUBJ: OIL TRADE DATA

REF: STATE 251105, DHAHRAN 044 (NOTAL)

1. PRODUCTION DATA BY COUNTRY OF DESTINATION REQUESTED BY REFTTEL SIMPLY NOTPUBLISHED BY SAUDI ARABIAN GOVERNMENT. BEST SOURCE OF LEVEL OF PRODUCTION FOR MORE THAN NINETY-FIVE PERCENT OF SAUDI CRUDE AND REFINERY FUNDS WOULD BE THE QUARTERLY REPORTS UNDER THE CERP PROGRAM (CERP 4259 SERIES) BUT THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE DESTINATION. IT SEEMS DOUBTFUL THAT MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM COLLATES DESTINATION DATA AND ARAMCO HAS INFORMED US THAT EVEN THEY DO NOT KNOW ABOUT TANKER CHANGE OF DESTINATIONS AFTER THEY SAIL FROM RAS TANURA. (FYI WE KNOW THAT THIS HAPPENED FAIRLY FREQUENTLY EVEN BEFORE THE OCTOBER WAR AND EMBARGO.)

2. ARAMCO WOULD PREFER THAT WE SECURE FIGURES FROM NEW YORK WHERE DAILY REPORTS ARE COLLATED, PARTLY BECAUSE OF THE ERRORS INHERENT IN REPORTING FROM DHAHRAN SOURCES BUT MOSTLY BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE EMBARRASSMENT WITH SAG.

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3. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT FOR THE TIME BEING AT LEAST,

NEW YORK SOURCES BE USED FOR DATA REQUESTED IN REFTTEL AND THAT THESE BE CHECKED AGAINST FIELD REPORTING UNDER CERP PROGRAM.

4. AS SAG MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM INCREASES EFFICIENCY AND SOPHISTICATION OF OPERATION, IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO RECEIVE ON PERIODIC BASIS REPORTING FROM THAT MINISTRY. BUT IT NOW SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT SUCH INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE TO US SOON.

AKINS

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Message Attributes

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